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By Tom Beaumont

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Bruce Braley's got a bright future, according to congressional and political insiders surveyed by National Journal.

In fact, the second-term Iowa congressman from Waterloo is seen as one of Washington's top 5, fastest-rising Democratic stars, according to the Washington, D.C.,-based non-partisan political publication.

Congressional insiders polled by National Journal ranked Braley the third most-promising Democratic member of Congress. Political insiders ranked him fourth.

His company includes onetime presidential prospect Mark Warner, now a senator from Virginia. Also ranking high in both lists is Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, a Florida congresswoman and Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland congressman.

Braley has worked both the policy and political tracks of House leadership, landing a spot last year on the influential Energy and Commerce Committee, while this year becoming vice chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Here's what some of those surveyed said about the former courtroom lawyer now seen as on the leadership track in the U.S. House.

"He digs into issues and reads everything. Politically, he is vice chair of the [Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee], charged with recruiting candidates and raising money."

"Quietly building leadership credentials."